

JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER  
3RD DISTRICT, SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON

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July 20, 2020

The Honorable Charles P. Rettig  
Commissioner  
Internal Revenue Service  
1111 Constitution Avenue Northwest  
Washington, DC 20224

Dear Commissioner Rettig,

I am writing in pursuit of a resolution to a pressing issue that many Southwest Washington residents are facing due to the current delays in tax return processing times.

Many citizens have contacted me who submitted their annual tax returns via mail in February and March, but nearly five months later have yet to receive their tax refund. As you know, a significant number of Americans rely on their tax refunds as essential income – money they need to pay their bills, backfill savings and make essential purchases. Taking into account the dire economic circumstances so many people are facing during the coronavirus pandemic, if these citizens are forced to wait more than a half-year to get their money back from the IRS, they may lose their homes, be forced to forgo food or skip purchasing prescription medications.

The only guidance my office has received from the IRS is for residents to file their taxes again electronically. This is not a realistic option for many of my constituents due to the technological challenges and lack of internet access in rural communities of my district, of which there are many. Furthermore, citizens should not be forced to invest additional time and money to file online when they followed the law and filed their taxes well before the original April filing deadline.

We all understand the added challenges of keeping individuals safe in the workplace during this time, but surely the IRS can implement the same preventative measures put into place by countless other businesses, agencies, storefronts and offices to protect enough employees to remedy this serious issue. You must recognize that the timely processing of mailed-in tax refunds for citizens who need that money to pay for housing, food and medical bills is an essential service.

I request that your agency promptly provide my office with specific steps it is taking to address the backlog of mailed-in tax returns that is jeopardizing the well-being of so many Americans.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this pressing matter and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jaime Herrera Beutler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jaime Herrera Beutler  
Member of Congress